AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The MPLS Protocol is shown in Figure 1. The overhead (10) is 4 bytes and consists of the fields Label (20) (20 bits), Exp (30) (3 bits), S (40) (1 bit) and TTL (50) (8 bits). EXP means EXPerimental bits and may be used when mapping traffic classes from i. e. IP Differentiated Services field (ToS). The S bit (40) indicates Stack depth of MPLS. When S is set, it means that this is the innermost stack. TTL means Time To Live and is adapted from the IPv4 indicating how many hops the packet is allowed to travel before it is being terminated.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The standard way of using MPLS is to use it in addition to various protocols, just adding more packet overhead for control information. The application type decides what the rest of the protocol stack looks like. Real time traffic has other requirements than non-real-time traffic. Voice traffic may use a protocol stack (100) as shown in Figure 2.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21:

~~(If only MPLS, and a label stacking technique as described above is used, the SDH/SONET/ATM/Ethernet packet payload will increase by only 3.1%. This protocol stack is shown in Figure 3.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is an object of the present invention to provide an arrangement that eliminates the drawbacks described above. ~~The features defined in the independent claim enclosed characterize this method~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 4 shows an example where the stack depth is 2 (which of course possibly also could be more/less if reasonable). Figure 1 shows the details on how the MPLS protocol is defined. One possible scenario could be as follows: Assume that a call is about to be established to Exchange OSLO, which could have five 155Mbit/s SDH terminations (155Mbit/s = 63 times 2 Mbit/s "effective" payload, the rest is overhead). The outer MPLS label (300) will then identify the Exchange OSLO. Arriving at OSLO, the outer label is removed and the Exchange will investigate the inner MPLS label (310) representing the actual PCM system. In this example, 5 *63 = 315 PCM systems would be available. Each PCM system needs to have its own label unique within exchange OSLO. Hence, at OSLO there must be a table describing the mapping between the incoming MPLS label and corresponding PCM system

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention provides transportation of real-time traffic (e. g. speech) over packet switched networks with a quality approximately as good as for circuit switched lines without occupying more network capacity and as further illustrated in Fig. 5.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transporting ~~TDM (Time Division Multiplex)~~ Time Division Multiplex (TDM) time slots of a circuit switched connection from a first circuit switched node to a second circuit switched node through a packet switched network including a number of packet switched nodes, the circuit and packet switched nodes are all having the characteristics of a Multiprotocol Label Switch (MPLS), ~~characterized in the following steps~~ comprising the steps of:

in the first circuit switched node, encapsulating the time slots in a data frame adjusted to be transferred in the packet switched network,

stacking the data frame with at least one inner MPLS label uniquely addressing a PCM system within the second circuit switched node and/or at least one outer MPLS label identifying a fixed path of consecutive packet switched nodes within the packet switched network, said outer label includes addresses of all the packet switched nodes included in the fixed path in addition to an address of the second circuit switched node.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in the following additional step~~ further comprising the step of:

in the second circuit switched node, removing the outer MPLS label and transferring the time slots to the PCM system addressed by the inner label.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in the following additional steps~~ comprising the step of:

in the first node, including the address of the first packet switched node of the fixed path as the outer label,

and, in each of the consecutive packet switched nodes, exchanging the content of the outer label with the address of the packet switched node following current packet switched node or, if current packet switched node is the last packet switched node of the fixed path, with the address of the second circuit switched node.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that the first and the second circuit switched nodes are Label Edge Routers (LERs) and the packet switched nodes are Label Switched Routers (LSRs).

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that the circuit switched connection is a 64 kbit/s connection and the number of time slots in the data frame is 32 or 24.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that the first and/or the second circuit switched node are/is (an) exchange (s) in (a) public telephone network (s).

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that the circuit switched connection is a real-time connection like a telephone call connection.